

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to sheet 3 of 9, which adds Fig. 3A, to show the threaded attachment as recited in original claim 3 (now canceled), and now recited in amended claim 1. In addition, reference character 504 was deleted from paragraph [048] thus no further changes to the drawings were required.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 3 of 9

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 30, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 20, 26-30 and 34-36 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 5, 20, 26, 35 and 36 are in independent form. Claims 1, 5, 20, and 28 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 3 (now canceled); Claim 5 was amended to be in independent form, as described further below; Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 21 (now canceled); and claim 28 has been amended as to matters relating to form, to correct a typographical error, as described by the Examiner at the top of the page 4. Claims 3, 9-19, 21-25 and 31-33 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The specification has been carefully reviewed and amended as to matters of form, including those kindly pointed out by the Examiner in the Office Action at page 3. It is believed that the objections to the specification have been obviated, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

The drawings have been amended as described above, in particular, sheet 3 of 9 has been amended to add Fig. 3A to show the threaded attachment of claim 3 (now canceled), as recited in amended claim 1, the threaded attachment being shown by reference numeral "114a". In addition, reference character 504 was deleted from paragraph [048] thus no additional changes to the drawings were required.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 26-30 and 34-36 and the indication that claims 3 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected based claim. As noted above, Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 21; the allowable subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 21 has been incorporated into independent claim 20. Applicants thereby believe that newly amended independent claims 1 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 5, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Section 112 rejections directed to canceled claims 18 and 19 are moot in light of their cancellation. Claim 5 has

been amended to be in independent form, to address the Examiner's point that the specification does not enable "... an end plug that is *both* (emphasis added) adjustable via a threaded attachment (claim 3, from which claim 5 depends) *and* (emphasis added) ultrasonically welded to the barrel" (page 4 of Office Action, first paragraph of Section 112, first paragraph, rejection). Applicants submit that the Section 112, first paragraph, rejections have been remedied, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

The Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 17 is moot in light of the canceling of claim 17.

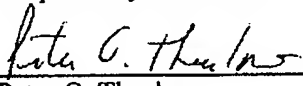
The prior art rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 17 and 20 are moot in light of the adding of allowable subject matter from now-canceled claim 3 to claim 1, and the adding of allowable subject matter from now-canceled claim 21 to claim 20.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, and the fact that all the remaining claims have been indicated as either allowed or including allowable subject matter, Applicants request that a notice of allowance be granted accordingly.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

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